

# California State Journal of Medicine.

Owned and Published Monthly by the

Medical Society of the State of California

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VOL. VIII JANUARY, 1910.

No. 1

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

Each year brings with it a certain amount of routine and a certain amount of new work—of new problems. Comes now 1910 and **NEW YEAR'S PROBLEMS.** extends a welcoming hand and a cheery smile of promise for the future; yet also with some problems of its own. Already the political pot is on the fire and there are symptoms that it will boil early in the year. In every district in the state are members of our society; and, likewise, in every district there are citizens with aspirations toward the legislature. True, the time for nominations seems afar; but that is merely deceptive appearance, for even now plans are being made and influence sought. It is our duty to the people of the State of California to see to it that no one shall be nominated to the legislature who has not had thoroughly explained to him some of the elements of public health demands. Smallpox is steadily increasing in the state and, what is a graver menace, it is becoming each year more virulent in type. During the past year the schools in several towns in the state had to be closed on account of epidemic smallpox. Would it not be infinitely worse if the compulsory vaccination act were to be repealed? Can you not see to it that whoever is chosen to represent your district in the legislature shall know what a grave danger threatens the state and how vitally important it is

that we maintain compulsory vaccination? You will remember that the last legislature passed a bill doing away with compulsory vaccination and that it was vetoed by the Governor. But it should not have passed; its passage was a disgrace to a civilized state in the twentieth century. Furthermore, the last legislature made several attacks upon the medical practice act, a law which has been sustained by the Supreme Court in every essential and which is the only barrier between the incompetent charlatan and the people who know not the wise from the ignorant. The law is a good law and treats all alike. It merely says to everyone who would practice upon sick humanity, "Show us that you know enough of the make-up of the human body and its common ailments so that we may know you will do the minimum amount of harm, no matter what form of practice may seem best to you." This point, too, should be explained to those in your district who have aspirations toward the legislature, and their views on these questions should be secured before even they are nominated, if possible; certainly before election time has come and gone. Few laymen know the real facts; and so few legislators know them; there is time to explain the facts before election, but none after the representative has begun his work at Sacramento. Therefore, while it now looks as though there were plenty of time, there really is not; we should begin work at once.

This year it is particularly important that all reports of membership should be sent to the Secretary of the State Society as early in January as possible—and more **TO COUNTY SECRETARIES.** important that they should be accurate. The Medical Defense feature of the State Society is extended only to those members who have their dues fully paid up, and therefore are in good standing in their county society. If a member is delinquent for three or four months, he is not in good standing during that period of time and should any act of his during that period result in a subsequent suit for malpractice it could not be defended by the State Society. It is obviously necessary that this protection must be extended only to those who are actively and positively identified with the Society and who are in good standing in it. Will the secretaries of all County Medical Societies kindly take notice of this and call the fact to the attention of their members? We shall have to keep very accurate track of all members reported, and of all whose names are not on the official annual reports; these latter will not be covered by the Medical Defense department until they are again reported as being in good standing and dues paid. This is going to add materially to the work in the office of the State Society, and County Secretaries can very greatly help by sending in accurate reports at an early date and by notifying their members of the importance of promptly paying their dues—or losing the protection offered by the State Society.